

Message Text

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43

ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 OIC-04 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8784

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV US NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN INVITATION TO AIR POLLUTION CONFERENCE
AND PARTICIPATION OSLO CONVENTION MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 213857 (B) 208039

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED HAAKON HJELDE OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY MINUTES BEFORE HE LEFT FOR PARIS SEPTEMBER 30 FOR PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER MEETING IN OSLO OF THE PARTIES TO THE OSLO CONVENTION ON OCEAN DUMPING. AT PARIS MEETING HE PLANS TO RAISE WITH CONVENTION PARTIES THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCREDITING NON-PARTY GOVERNMENTAL OBSERVERS TO THE OCTOBER MEETING (STATE 208039).

2. DECEMBER AIR POLLUTION CONFERENCE IN OSLO (STATE 213857) HJELDE SAID, WOULD BE TECHNICAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING TRANSMISSION OF AIR POLLUTANTS. PROGRAM WOULD BE DIRECTED TO LONG RANGE TRANSMISSION AND WOULD BE LIMITED TO EUROPE.

3. HJELDE THOUGHT U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED FROM SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT SINCE AIR POLLUTION TRANSMISSION IN EUROPE HAS GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS AND FROM POLITICAL STANDPOINT SINCE PURPOSE IS TO SHAPE AN EAST-WEST COOPERATIVE PROJECT UNDER CSCE. ALSO, HE SAID U.S. EXPERTISE WOULD BE VALUABLE TO PROJECT.

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4. AS HJELDE WAS LEAVING RIGHT AWAY FOR PARIS AND EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE NORWEGIAN NOTE, HE AGREED TO SEND COPY OF MEETING BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO EMBASSY AND TO ANSWER ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS NEXT WEEK WHEN HE RETURNED.

5. IF DEPT WISHES EMBASSY WILL PURSUE MATTER WITH HIM NEXT WEEK AND WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS DEPT WOULD LIKE EXPLORED. HJELDE DID NOT FEEL THE OCT. 1 DEADLINE FOR REPLY WAS CRITICAL SO DEPT MIGHT WANT TO INFORM NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OUR PARTICIPATION IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. COMMENT: AS DEPT IS AWARE NORWEGIANS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ACID RAIN PROBLEM HERE AND THEY ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO FIND WAYS TO DRAW OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHO ARE THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF THE PROBLEM, INTO RESEARCH AND MONITORING EFFORTS TO BROADEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND HOPEFULLY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACT TO COMBAT IT. SINCE NORWEGIANS ARE CONFIDENT THAT SULFURIC OXIDE FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PRINCIPALLY POLAND AND EAST GERMANY, ARE PARTIAL SOURCES OF NORWAY'S ACID RAINS, THEY SEE THE CSCE AS GOOD FORUM TO ENLIST THE EASTERN INTEREST.

7. IN DECIDING ON US PARTICIPATION IN NORWEGIAN PROJECT, DEPT WILL WANT TO CONSIDER HOW NORWAY'S ACID RAIN INTERESTS RELATE ON DOMESTIC SIDE TO PROGRAMS OF EPA'S CORVALLIS LABORATORY (DR. NORMAN GLASS) AND RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK (RTP). DEPT WILL ALSO BE EVALUATING HOW PROPOSED PROGRAM MIGHT ADD ON INTERNATIONAL SIDE TO OECD WORK IN THIS FIELD AND HOW IT MIGHT BUILD UP ON OR BE IMPROVED BY USE OF COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPED THROUGH THE CCMS AIR POLLUTION PROJECT. THE APPROACH WAS ACCEPTED IN CCMS PLENARY RESOLUTION NOVEMBER 1971, AND EPA'S RTP EXPERTS PROVIDED A MAJOR IMPUT TO THE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING ASPECTS OF THE CCMS PROJECT. WE EXPECT THE NORWEGIANS WOULD SHY AWAY FROM EMPHASIZING ANY CCMS ELEMENTS IN THEIR PROPOSAL, BUT THEY MIGHT AGREE, IF URGED DISCREETLY, TO EMPLOY THE SAME SYSTEMS APPROACH SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH IT. FINALLY, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WHATEVER SUPPORT WE COULD GIVE TO THIS NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM IN TAKING A LEAD IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO DEVELOP INFORMATION AND CONTROL APPROACHES TO THIS SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION PROBLEM.
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